TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the 31st July, 1922.

(OFFICIAL REPORT.)

The Council re-assembled at the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven Thirty-Three of the Clock, the President presiding.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12.*

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking supplementary questions. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

COMPULSORY RETIREMENT OF MR. C. E. KESAVA PILLAI, ASSISTANT EXCISE COMMISSIONER.

22. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: Will the Government be pleased to inform the Council whether Mr. C. E. Kesava Pillai, Assistant Excise Commissioner at Quilon, is to be compulsorily retired?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: Mr. C. E. Kesava Pillai, Assistant Excise Commissioner, Quilon, has been called upon to retire on pain of reduction.

INCREASE OF SCHOOL-FEES AND STUDENTS' STRIKE.

23. MR. M. NILAKANDA PILLAI; (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether, and if so, in what manner, they have disposed of the memorial submitted to His Highness the Maha Raja by the citizens of Trivandrum, the memorial submitted by the majority of the members of the last session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the resolutions submitted by many public meetings and conferences, praying for the appointment of a Committee to enquire into the incidents of the 5th Kanni, 1097, in and about the College premises, and, if they have not done so, whether they propose to appoint a Committee as prayed for?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any departmental enquiry has been made into the conduct of the officers concerned in the above incidents?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether policemen in *mufti* and policemen in uniform but without numbers took part in the

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[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

incidents, and if so, whether any and what action has been taken in the matter by the Government?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been drawn to the circumstances pointed out by Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai, B. A., B. L., Sri Mulam Popular Assembly member for Quilon, in his representation in the last session of the Assembly, to show the unsustainability of the plea of self-defence contained in the Dewan's address to the Assembly members, in regard to the incidents of the 5th Kanni, and, if so, whether the Government have made any investigation into the circumstances pointed out by the member?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to state on what basis they advance the plea of self-defence? Will they be pleased to place on the table the record or records, if any, on which the plea is based?

(*f*) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the report, if any, sent to the Government by the District Magistrate regarding the incidents of the 5th Kanni, 1097?

(*g*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the papers which formed the basis for their statement that the death of a Vanchiyur school boy at Shertallai was not due to the injuries sustained in the College premises, but was due to typhoid fever?

(*h*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they would revise their order regarding the enhancement of school-fees, in the light of the circumstances pointed out in the S. M. P. Assembly, in the various public meetings and in the press, justifying such revision?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) The memorial and the resolutions referred to by the member have been recorded after due consideration.

(*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) *In re* the first part of the question, the member's attention is invited to paragraph 7 of the Press Communiqué dated the 24th September, 1921.

In re the second part, the matter is still under the consideration of Government.

(*d*) & (*e*) The circumstances connected with the incident of the 5th Kanni, 1097, which formed the basis of the opinion of Government referred to by the member are fully narrated in paragraph 5 of the Press Communiqué dated the 29th September, 1921, and Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai's representation at the Assembly did not disclose any new facts to necessitate a further investigation. In regard to the latter portion of part (*e*), the member is referred to the answer given to parts (*f*) and (*g*).

(*f*) & (*g*) The papers connected with the incident in the College compound on the 5th Kanni, 1097, being voluminous, will be printed; and the papers asked for will be laid on the table when printed, provided they are not confidential.

(*h*) None of the circumstances referred to by the member justify, in the opinion of Government, any revision. The answer to the question must therefore be in the negative.

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MR. M. NILAKANDA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state what their reasons were for recording the memorial and the resolutions?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: Government do not see their way to explain the reasons for recording them.

STUDENTS' STRIKE.

24. MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state with reference to the students' strike during the beginning of this Malabar year—

(*a*) whether they are aware that there had been considerable indiscipline among the students of the Vanchiyur School and other institutions in the Capital long before the strike;

(*b*) whether they received any report on the matter from the Director of Public Instruction or from the Inspector of Secondary Schools;

(*c*) whether any of the officers mentioned above took any steps to enquire into the causes of the strike;

(*d*) whether Government held any enquiry into the causes of such a lamentable break-down in the educational *morale* of the State;

(*e*) whether the Director of Public Instruction and the Inspector of Secondary Schools visited any of the disturbed institutions and conducted local enquiries; and, if so, with what results; and

(*f*) whether any action has yet been taken by Government to remove the feeling in the public mind regarding the alleged high-handed and illegal action of the Police and the Military within the premises of His Highness the Maha Raja's College for boys on the 5th Kanni, 1097.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) It has been reported to Government that there were instances of indiscipline prior to the strike, in the Sri Mula Vilasam School, His Highness the Maha Rajah's College and in the Sanskrit College.

(*b*) The incident in the Sri Mula Vilasam School was reported by the Head Master to the Director direct, the Inspector being absent on circuit. It is understood that the incident in the College which occurred in 1919 was reported by the Acting Principal to the Acting Director, and to the Government orally. Government received a report from the Director *in re* the incident in the Sanskrit College.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The matter has been investigated.

(*e*) Yes. Both the Director and the Acting Inspector proceeded to the school and made enquiries, and the Director submitted a report to Government.

(*f*) The member is referred to the Government Press Communiqué dated the 24th September, 1921, and to paragraph 22 of the Dewan's address to the members of the eighteenth session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. The conduct of individual officers is under the consideration of the Government.

APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO ENQUIRE INTO THE OCCURRENCES OF THE 5TH KANNI. 1097, WITHIN THE COLLEGE PREMISES.

25. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have arrived at any decision, or whether

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